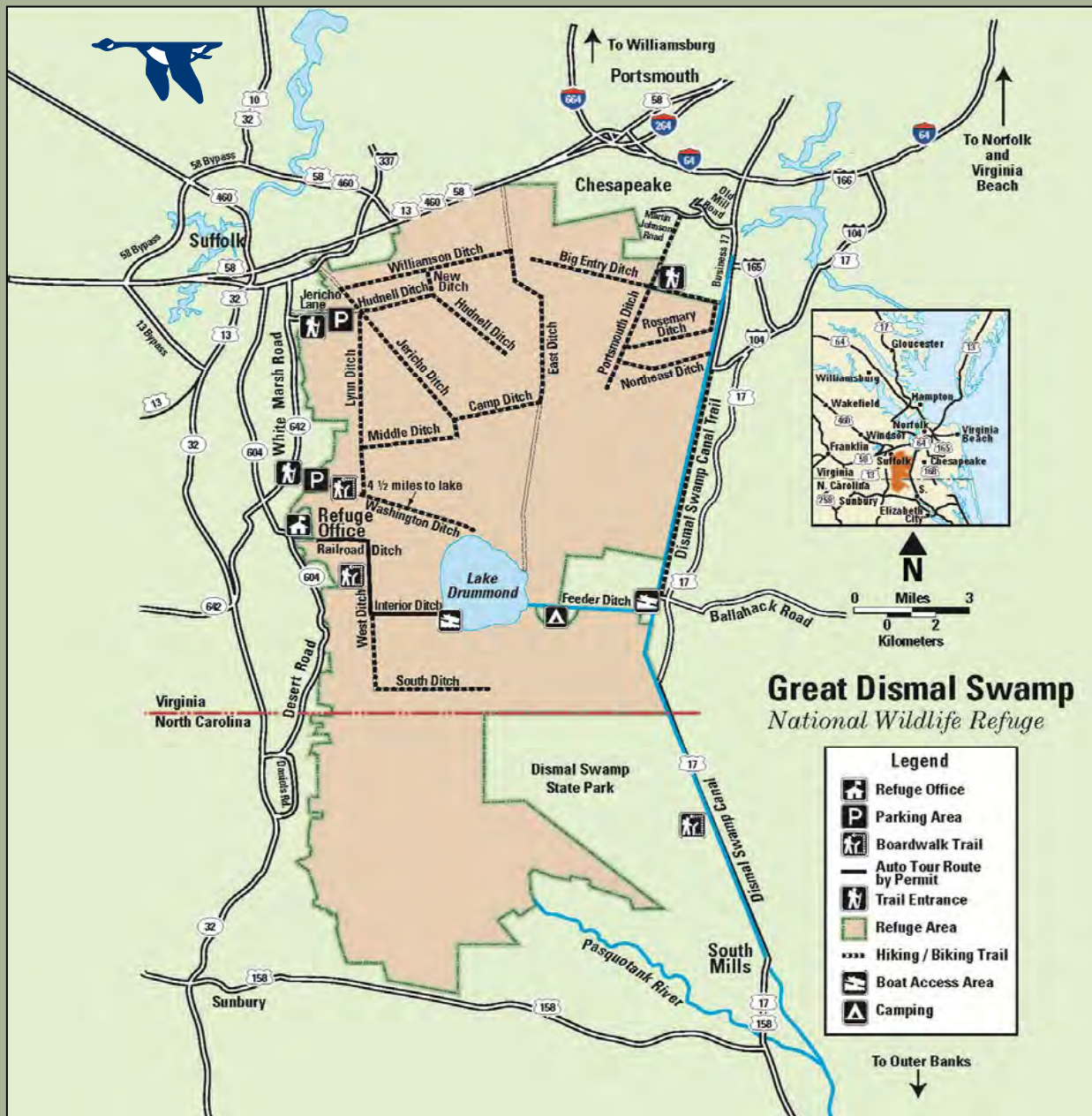


## Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge



### For your safety:

- Remain on designated trails at all times.
- Insect repellent is suggested during warm seasons.
- Cell phone coverage is limited.
- Pets must be on a hand held lease at all times.

- Collecting plants or animals is not allowed.
- Feeding or handling wildlife is not allowed.
- Swimming is prohibited.
- Ditch fishing is prohibited.

June, 2015

## Visitor Information

**Refuge Trails** Open daily for hiking and biking, sunrise to sunset, or as otherwise posted.

**Refuge Office** Open Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm, closed federal holidays.

**Railroad Ditch Road** Self-service permits are available at the entrance kiosk. Access allowed Monday- Saturday, 7:30am to 3:00pm.

Refuge Office  
3100 Desert Road  
Suffolk, Virginia 23434  
Phone: 757-986-3705  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/Great\\_Dismal\\_Swamp](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Dismal_Swamp)

# Welcome to the Great Dismal Swamp

Located within a two hour drive of 1.6 million residents of southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina, the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge offers an enticing wildlands experience. Over 113,000 acres of forested wetlands and the 3,100 acre Lake Drummond at its center, the refuge contains some of the most important wildlife habitat in the mid-Atlantic region.

Visitors may participate in a variety of activities including hiking, biking, nature photography, wildlife observation, hunting, fishing and boating. The refuge was established for the purpose of protecting and managing the swamp's unique ecosystem which includes wildlife and habitat. In that, portions of the refuge may be periodically closed to public visitation in order to accomplish these objectives.

## Refuge Points of Entrance

The refuge offers five entrances from which visitors will find many miles of trails for exploring. The Washington Ditch Trail, 3076 White Marsh Rd and the Jericho Ditch Trail, 1330 White Marsh Road, are both located in Suffolk, VA. They provide the best dirt roads for hiking and biking. The Railroad Ditch Road is located at 3120 Desert Road in Suffolk, VA, and is the only auto access to Lake Drummond. The Portsmouth Ditch entrance is located off Martin-Johnson Road, in Chesapeake, VA. The Feeder Ditch, also in Chesapeake, is located on the Dismal Swamp Canal and is a by-water-only entrance.



## Washington Ditch Trail

3076 White Marsh Road, Suffolk, VA

The Washington Ditch Trail is most often recommended for hiking and biking.

- Open daily, sunrise to sunset.
- The four and one half mile dirt road is the shortest trail to Lake Drummond.
- Observation pier at Lake. Fishing from pier is allowed.
- Elevated Washington Ditch Boardwalk Trail. The boardwalk meanders almost a mile through a representative portion of swamp habitats.
- Vault restrooms are located in the parking area.
- Largest refuge parking area, one mile east of White Marsh Road.



## Jericho Ditch Trail

1330 White Marsh Road, Suffolk, VA

In the Jericho Ditch entrance visitors will find a more primitive setting but with four trails leading from the parking area.

- Open daily, sunrise to sunset.
- Favored by birding enthusiasts for seasonal abundance of warblers.
- Bird Banding station, seasonal, 1/2 mile south of parking area on Jericho Ditch Trail.
- Vault restroom is located at the parking area.
- Visitor parking is located two miles east of White Marsh Road on Jericho Lane.

## Railroad Ditch Road

3120 Desert Road, Suffolk, VA

Auto tour route to Lake Drummond. Six miles to Lake Drummond.

- For hiking and biking the trail is open daily, sunrise to sunset.
- For vehicle access, the self-serve permit can be found at the entrance kiosk. Gate opens Monday—Saturday, 7:30am—3:00pm. Vehicles must exit the gate by 4:00pm.
- Underground Railroad Education Pavilion and boardwalk.
- West Ditch Boardwalk to 800 year old cypress tree.
- Observation pier at Lake. Fishing from pier is allowed.
- Boat launching by terms of the Self-serve Auto Tour permit.

## Pines Trail / Headquarters

3100 Desert Road, Suffolk, VA

Contact point to refuge staff and for additional information.

- Pines Trail, open daily, sunrise to sunset.
- Trail access is adjacent to parking area or adjacent to the front gate kiosk.
- Headquarters, open Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm. Closed weekends and Federal holidays.

## Portsmouth Ditch Trail

Martin Johnson Road, Chesapeake, VA

Subject to seasonal closures, the entrance road takes you two miles south of Martin-Johnson Road to a gated bridge beyond which there are miles of trails for hiking and biking.

- Open daily, sunrise to sunset.
- Beautiful habitat for birders and butterfly enthusiast.
- Parking allowed on road side before bridge. Do not block bridge.

## Feeder Ditch

Dismal Swamp Canal, Chesapeake, VA

Fishing and boating are permitted year-round on Lake Drummond with access from the Feeder Ditch, connecting Lake Drummond with the Dismal Swamp Canal.

- Open daily, sunrise to sunset.
- Restrictions are 1,000 lb boat weight limit to use the lift at the spillway and a maximum motor size of 25hp on Lake Drummond.
- Virginia fresh water fishing license is required if fishing.

## Hunting

White-tailed deer and American Black bear scouting and hunting take place on 15 designated days in September, October and November. Hunt permit and state license are required. Most trails are closed to the general public on those days.

*The Washington Ditch and Portsmouth Ditch entrances remain opened for hiking and biking on scouting and hunting days.*

## Camping & Picnicking

Camping, open fires, and overnight use are prohibited on the refuge. There are no designated picnic areas on the refuge. Note: Overnight camping is allowed at the Lake Drummond Reservation, located on the Feeder Ditch in Chesapeake. The site is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. You cannot park overnight at the Interior Ditch boat ramp.